پروفیسر سیف الدین سوز: سر، گل صاحب نے جو سوال اٹھایا ہے میں ان سے متفق ہوں، اری گیشن کو پوری امپارٹنس ملنی چاہئے۔ جس وقت یہ پوزل رکھا گیا تھا، اس وقت بتایا گیا تھا کہ اس کے لئے کافی پیسہ مہیا ہے۔ لیکن ہم جو خرچ کر پائے ہیں، اس میں بڑی مشکلات ہیں کیوں کہ اری گیشن اسٹیٹس سبجکٹ ہے، ان کے وہاں ڈفیکلٹیز ہیں۔ لینڈ لینا ہے، پیسہ ڈھونڈنا ہے لیکن میں آپ سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ واٹر باڈیز کو ریوائیو کرنے کے لئے پورے ملک میں بہت پیسہ چاہئے۔ یہ معاملہ کیبنیٹ کے سامنے آجائے گا۔ میں آپ کی خواہش کے مطابق میں یہ باتیں کیبنیٹ کے سامنے رکھوں گا اور پیسہ ملے گا۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Promotion of Tourism in Maharashtra

†*545. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government to boost tourism in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what effective steps are being taken by Government to promote tourism in Maharashtra; and

(c) what steps are being taken to develop places of archaeological importance in Maharashtra as tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Identification of places of tourist interest/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals submitted by the State Government that have been prioritised

† [ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for grant of central financial assistance for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultation with the State Government/UT Administrations. The project proposals are examined as per guidelines and funds released subject to availability under the respective head during a specific year.

No project proposal for any destination/circuit scheme has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra during the current financial year.

(b) Government has prepared a 20-Year Perspective Plan for each State/UT Administration including Maharashtra with the broad objectives of:

(i) assessing the existing tourism scenario in the State;

(ii) reviewing the status of existing development/investment plans;

(iii) evaluating the existing potential tourist destination;

(iv) developing sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

(v) identifying the existing as well as new tourism projects that have potential for development;

(vi) giving plans with short term and long term targets;

(vii) indicating the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

(viii) preparing an action plan for implementing identified potential scheme/projects, and for development of infrastructure.

The 20-Year Perspective Plans prepared for the States have given State-wise details and the action plan for implementation of identified tourism related schemes/projects.

Apart from this, adequate publicity is being given both in overseas and domestic markets for promotion, of tourism of the country including Maharashtra's. These include campaigns in print, electronic and IT media, participation in travel fairs and festivals and production and distribution of brochures, collateral and tourism literature.

(c) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/spots in the country including the State of Maharashtra is a continuous process.

During the 10th Five Year Plan, following funds have been sanctioned for integrated development of tourism in Maharashtra:

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakh)
2002-03	623.46
2003-04	1079.51
2004-05	1650.69
2005-06	2075.04
TOTAL	5428.70

The projects sanctioned by the Department of Tourism during the 10th Five Year Plan also include the development of places of archaeological importance in Maharashtra as tourist destinations details of which are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the project sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Development of Ajanta and Ellora caves	229.80
2.	Development of Jaigarh Fort	200.51
3.	Development of Vijaydurg	200.00
4.	Development of Sindhudurg	102.51
5.	Elephant festival	10.00
6.	Konkan Riviera Circuit comprising Ganapatipule-Valneswar-Sindhudurg-Tarkali	594.17
7.	Rejuvanation of Sinhagad Fort under Destination Development	470.11
8.	Destination Development of Karla, District Pune	485.02
	TOTAL	2292.12

Separately with the assistance of Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), the Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase II) has been approved for an amount of Rs. 299.00 crore (Japanese Yen 7331 million).